

EMWD was able to substantially expand the agency's desalination program creating a new local water source for its residents. The federal and state funding secured for this initiative resulted in the construction of the South Perris Desalter project, which will produce 6,000 acre-feet per year of potable water.

Mr. Jones was also a leading advocate for transforming the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI recycled water funding program into a competitive grant program—a goal which was realized through the enactment of the Water Infrastructure Investment for the Nation (WIIN) Act in 2016. While President of the WaterReuse Association, Mr. Jones helped to develop the nation's first ever federal Water Reuse Action Plan which formally launched in February 2020. During California's historic drought, Mr. Jones worked with other state water leaders to create a more equitable system that rewarded proactive water use efficiency measures. In addition, Paul has led the way in California for a more viable alternative to assist failing water systems without the need for a statewide tax on all water users.

On the local level, Mr. Jones has played a key role in a local agency partnership to transform the area near Diamond Valley Lake into an environmentally sustainable recreational area. In addition, on behalf of EMWD Mr. Jones has made innumerable contributions at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, the Association of California Water Agencies, the Southern California Water Coalition, and the California WaterReuse Association. I would like to thank Paul Jones for his service to the community and water industry and wish him much happiness in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING ARKANSAS
STATE TROOPER JAMES O. RAY
ON BEING NAMED AS AMERICAN
ASSOCIATIONS OF STATE TROOPERS
TROOPER OF THE YEAR

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arkansas State Trooper James O. Ray on being named the 2021 American Association of State Troopers Trooper of the Year. A three-year veteran of the Arkansas State Police Highway Patrol Division and Franklin County resident, Officer Ray exemplifies service beyond the call of duty and represents the finest of Arkansas' Fourth District.

Officer Ray was granted this honor following his courageous action in December 2020 in which his wise response to a dangerous chase prevented catastrophic damage and injury to the public. After responding to a call to support a fellow trooper along Interstate 40 near Ozark, Officer Ray followed a suspect vehicle at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour. The suspect later crossed the median, driving toward oncoming traffic. Officer Ray drove ahead of the suspect in the opposite lane, stopped traffic to protect motorists behind him, and then rammed the front corner of the suspect vehicle. Once both vehicles were in the median, Trooper Ray safely arrested the

suspect, with no injuries to the suspect or any other motorist.

I take this time today to congratulate Trooper Ray on this most deserving honor and thank him for his exemplary service to the people of the State of Arkansas. May we always look to officers like him as the picture of true heroism.

HONORING MR. JAMES TOBIN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James J. Tobin—a man who dedicated almost 40 years of his life to the automotive industry before retiring at the end of last year.

In the close-knit community of auto manufacturing, Mr. Tobin was a model of integrity, leadership, and hard work. As an executive with Magna International, the world's largest supplier for vehicles and automobiles, he was integral to strategic planning for an ever-changing landscape.

That knack for adapting—the ability to innovate as an industry leader while having the flexibility of someone helming a start-up—was instrumental when the first wave of COVID-19 hit our state last March.

Working closely with the State of Michigan, Oakland County, and my office, Mr. Tobin helped retool Magna's global supply chains to secure PPE for our frontline workers. His expertise with logistics and operations helped overcome challenges by bridging the gap between Asian and North American markets.

Whether it was supporting domestic production of gowns, face shields and ventilators, or coordinating meals to local health care workers, Mr. Tobin stepped up when folks needed it most.

The open dialogue and communication between his team and ours brought essential supplies and equipment to the front lines of the pandemic.

I am ever-grateful to have had him as a partner in our efforts. There is no doubt in my mind that lives in Michigan were saved because of Mr. Tobin and the folks at Magna.

Now, as he enjoys his well-earned retirement, I am wishing him all the best. He deserves the R&R but, knowing him, I'm certain he'll continue to give back—as a loving husband and father of three and as a dedicated role model in the community.

It's my privilege to recognize him on the floor of the People's House so his achievements and contributions can forever live on.

HONORING FORMER AMBASSADOR
AHMET SHALA

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the first Minister of Finance for the Republic of Kosovo and former Kosovo Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Ahmet Shala, on earning his Doctor of Philos-

ophy in Strategic Leadership from James Madison University.

Mr. Shala was one of the first entrepreneurs to establish his own business in Kosovo, where he founded The Cambridge School, which is considered one of the leading institutions for English Language Teaching in Kosovo.

Mr. Shala began his career in public service when he was named the Deputy Managing Director at the Kosovo Trust Agency, where he was responsible for directing and managing the privatization of Kosovo's socially-owned enterprises. He later became the co-head of the Department of Trade and Industry, where he developed strategies and procedures for commercialization, again helping to transform Kosovo's socially-owned enterprises into private-sector development.

After being named the first Minister of Economy and Finance for the Republic of Kosovo in 2008, Mr. Shala laid the building blocks of the country's current economic system and successfully coordinated Kosovo's membership to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in 2009. Mr. Shala ran the Ministry of Finance until 2012, when he was appointed Kosovo's Ambassador to Japan.

After serving as Ambassador, Mr. Shala continued his service to the international community as a lecturer and professor in European and American educational institutions such as the London School of Economics, James Madison University and Harvard University.

Since losing family and friends to the horrific war crimes committed during the Kosovo War, he has been an avid human rights advocate and works to provide a voice for those facing oppression by expanding access to doctoral and master's program opportunities. At James Madison University, Mr. Shala has worked to ease tensions in the Balkan region by improving the quality of education in Kosovo and by partnering Kosovar students with high-impact graduate programs in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Former Ambassador Shala for his academic accomplishments along with his distinguished service to Kosovo, the United States and the global community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF IRENE B.
WEST

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of beloved Sacramentan Irene B. West, Retired Principal of the Elk Grove Unified School District, City of Elk Grove, County of Sacramento, California. Mrs. West entered eternal rest on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the age of 88. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. West.

Mrs. West was a beloved California educator, community leader, activist, and devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a longtime and very active member of one of California's historic religious institutions, Shiloh Baptist Church. Mrs. West was a supporter of, mentor and friend to many. The citizens of the Sacramento area benefitted